

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, dated March 28, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the prior art rejection set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicant submits that the reference of record fails to either teach or suggest Applicant's presently claimed invention.

Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly define the invention. All the claims specifically recite, in pertinent part, that the harness attachment comprises a first element and a second element to receive a dorsal harness strap of an independent, separate pet harness, wherein said pet harness is unattached to (or separate from) and does not comprise its own pack or coat attachment apparatus.

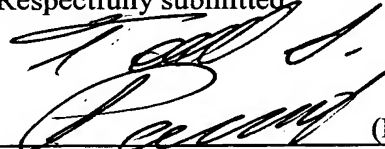
The present invention is far superior to the present dog pack and coat systems which incorporate their own limited harness elements or require that the harness contain its own attachment mechanism to the accessories. Specifically, the present invention describes that the harness attachment comprises two elements which may be attached to form a substantially tubular receiver to receive a dorsal harness strap of the pet harness even when the harness itself lacks an attachment mechanism. Significantly, a pet owner can quickly and securely attach the present invention to any existing harness. Consequently, the pet owner need not buy a special harness with an accessory attachment mechanism and its corresponding accessories the are able to mate with the specific attachment mechanism. There is simply no teaching or suggestion whatsoever concerning the use of a set of pet interchangeable accessories which simply and securely attach, via a novel harness attachment, to currently available pet harnesses in the prior art.

The reference of record fail to teach or suggest these advances in the art. Dost et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,637,367, is directed to a pack for carrying a foldable bed which includes an attachment mechanism that mates with a corresponding attachment apparatus of the harness. See Col. 2, line 66- Col. 3, line 1; Col. 3, lines 35-37. Additionally, the Dost et al. pack comprises an auxiliary strap that is equipped with a buckle that may be fastened about the harness' neck strap. Col. 3, lines 24-27. This is simply different from the present invention which comprises a harness attachment that may be attached to a dorsal strap of any harness including harnesses without specially designed attachment apparatus.

Furthermore, Dost et al. provides that the harness includes a D-ring at a front edge of the harness for coupling the harness to a leash. As seen in figures 2 and 8, this D-ring extends away from an outside edge of the pack to allow a leash to be attached. The Dost et al. pack simply does not provide that the pack comprises an opening through which leash attachment that is positioned away from the edge of the harness may be accessed.

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



(Reg. #26,494)

Date: June 28, 2005

Todd S. Parkhurst
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLC
131 S. Dearborn, 30th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Tel: (312) 263-3600
Attorney for Applicant

Appl. No. 10/677,571
Amdt. Dated June 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 28, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States
Postal Service as Express Mail on June 28, 2005 in an envelope addressed to:

**Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**



Attorney for Applicants

3024143_v1